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United Nations Forum on Forests
Ad Hoc Expert Group on Approaches and Mechanisms for Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting
Geneva, 8-12 December 2003

Provisional agenda and annotations

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of the Chairperson.
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
4. Tasks of the Expert Group.
5. Other matters.
6. Adoption of the report.

Annotations

1. Opening of the meeting

The Coordinator and head of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests will open the meeting.

2. Election of the Chairperson

In its decision 2003/299, in which it established the Ad Hoc Expert Group on Approaches and Mechanisms for Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Chairperson of the Expert Group should be elected from among its experts.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

In order to facilitate the work of the Expert Group, the provisional agenda and the draft organization of work of the meeting are tabled for consideration.

The Expert Group may wish to consider and adopt the agenda and organization of work. It may also wish to elect a Rapporteur and establish a drafting group to or assist the Chairperson in preparing a draft report of the Expert Group.

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4. Tasks of the Expert Group

(a) Assess existing reporting requirements as well as monitoring and assessment procedures under relevant international conventions, processes, instruments and organizations related to forests

(b) Propose ways for the Forum to monitor and assess progress

The Expert Group may wish to propose ways to monitor and assess progress based on voluntary reporting by countries, member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other relevant organizations, and international and regional processes on implementing the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action; ongoing work on criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management being undertaken at the national, regional and international levels; and existing data and information, as well as reporting systems and structures;

(c) Propose an outline for voluntary reporting to the Forum

(d) Recommend options for drawing upon the reports provided to Forum sessions to identify trends and lessons learned

(e) Develop recommendations on how to build capacity in countries

In its consideration of sub-item 4 (e), the Expert Group may wish to include an examination of ways to increase resources for monitoring, assessment and reporting, taking into account the special needs of developing countries.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on approaches and mechanisms for monitoring, assessment and reporting (E/CN.18/AC.1/2003/___)

5. Other matters

The Expert Group may wish to discuss other related matters.

6. Adoption of the report

In its decision 2003/299, the Economic and Social Council decided that the proposals and recommendations of the Expert Group should be provided by consensus, and that in the absence of consensus the report of the Expert Group should fully reflect the diversity of views expressed.

In the same decision, the Council decided that the Expert Group should prepare its report, taking into consideration the views of all participants and contributions received, and should submit that report to the Forum at its fourth session. The report should specify the major outcomes of the Expert Group's work, including proposals and recommendations for further consideration by the Forum.